AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Cancelled).

2.   (Currently Amended) The method for transmitting image information according to ~~claim 1~~claim 8, wherein said image falsification prevention treatment is embedding an electronic watermark in said digital image, and said embedded electronic watermark includes at least one of information relating to the place and time at which said object was imaged comprises longitude and latitude information received from a GPS, and standard time information.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting image information according to claim 2, wherein said information relating to the place where said object was imaged comprises one or more types of information selected from air temperature, humidity, illumination, intensity of ultraviolet radiation, altitude, air pressure, wind velocity, degree of cleanliness and sound.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting image information according to claim 2, wherein the name or code number of a person performing the imaging who acquired said digital image is further added to said digital image information.

5-7.   (Cancelled).

8.   (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting image information comprising the steps of:

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imaging an object by using a digital camera means so that a digital image of said object is acquired;

subjecting said acquired digital image to an image falsification prevention treatment;

transmitting a digital image which has been subjected to said image falsification prevention treatment and information corresponding to digital image acquisition conditions of said acquired digital image via communications means;

receiving the ~~results of~~digital image which has been subjected to said image falsification prevention treatment and information corresponding to ~~said detected defect;~~said digital image acquisition condition of said digital image;

checking the received ~~results of said image falsification prevention treatment for said~~ digital image to detect a presence of falsification;

storing said received and falsification checked digital image in a memory; and

~~detecting defects on said object by processing said falsification checked and stored digital image and extracting a feature of a detected defect; and~~

outputting ~~the detected defects to a display device~~ the received and falsification checked digital image and information of the digital image acquisition condition to a display screen,

wherein the step of outputting further includes a step of displaying an enlarged portion of the digital image beside the digital image on the same display screen when said enlarged portion is designated on said display screen.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting image information according to claim 8, wherein said object is welded and a welded part of said object has been subjected to a penetrant test processing or a magnetic particle test processing and said welded part is imaged in the step of imaging.

10. (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting image information according to claim 8, wherein said image falsification prevention treatment is embedding an electronic watermark in said digital image, and said embedded electronic watermark includes at least one of the place and time where said object was imaged, the person who performed the imaging, and information relating to the environment at the place where said imaging was performed.

11. (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting image information according to claim 8, wherein said image falsification prevention treatment is embedding an electronic watermark in said digital image, and said embedded electronic watermark includes at least one of air temperature, humidity, illumination, intensity of ultraviolet radiation, altitude, air pressure, wind velocity, degree of cleanliness and sound.

12. (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting image information according to claim 9, wherein defects in said welded parts are detected by subjecting said digital image to image processing.

13-38. (Cancelled).